



Sawtooth Technologies, LLC
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March 7, 2014

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, WA
Washington, DC 20554

RE: Connect America Fund, WC Docket No. 10-90

Dear Commissioners:

Sawtooth Technologies, LLC is an Internet service provider based in Stevenson, WA, serving residents of Skamania and Klickitat Counties since 1996. Sawtooth has been actively installing fiber-optic infrastructure in this region since its initial Fiber Network installed in Stevenson in October 2000. Today Sawtooth has installed over 150 miles of fiber networks spanning Skamania and Klickitat Counties with connections to almost every School and Library.

Sawtooth estimates that it could deploy fiber to the 523 homes and 4 schools in underserved and unserved areas of Skamania and Klickitat Counties and offer broadband and voice-over-IP services for \$4.4 Million in CAF Funds.

Skamania and Klickitat Counties are contiguous rural counties located along the Columbia River and the southern Washington State border, with Gifford Pinchot National Forest covering 80% of Skamania County and lands owned by the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation covering 1.2 million acres in the northern part of Klickitat County.

There are many Tribal Lands throughout the region that are lacking access to broadband. The Yakama Nation has purchased supplementary lands along the Columbia and Klickitat Rivers. Additionally, several tribes have areas along the Columbia River that are available to them to exercise their treaty rights to fish the river. These "in lieu fishing sites" along the Columbia River are utilized by four tribes, including the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, the Yakama Nation, the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation, and the Nez Perce Tribe. These areas lack broadband access.

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Geography

Persons per Square Mile:

Skamania County: 6.7

Klickitat County: 10.9

The geography consists of mountains, canyons, and deep rock ravines; dense forests in the west to barren lands in the east; some of the most challenging land types for infrastructure development in the state. Furthermore, culturally sensitive areas, salmon habitat, endangered species, and the designated Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area complicate the permitting and deployment schedules.

With tourism a large piece of the economy, the physical beauties of this region limit industrial and economic growth. Land for businesses is limited, and many people opt to telecommute or run their own small businesses from their homes. Increasing broadband connections to better enable these activities is a recurring theme from numerous economic development studies conducted in the region. Therefore, our target market is installing fiber to the home, enabling individuals, students, employees, and small businesses to access the resources and services available online to be successful in this rural environment.

There have been recent studies demonstrating the need to provide high speed broadband service in specific areas of these counties. The Klickitat-Skamania Local Technology Planning Team, a local consortium of governments, community organizations, and businesses supported by the state of Washington under the State Broadband Initiative, has been active in identifying areas of need and tracking projects to better serve the areas. Their efforts, in which Sawtooth has been a partner, include: surveys, community meetings, and mapping. Sawtooth's goal is to fill these gaps by deploying broadband and voice over IP to the areas identified in these studies. Sawtooth has compiled a list of homes that do not have service, yet are within proximity to recent fiber-optic construction that utilized American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds to connect community anchor institutions. These community members saw the fiber being installed in their area, yet haven't been able to access it due to the lack of funds for last mile build-out. The Klickitat-Skamania Local Technology Planning Team is supporting this proposal for increasing access in communities that have been identified as unserved or underserved.



Proposed Census Tracts

Skamania County Census Tract 9502 and 9504

EligibleHC 230 and 117

ExtremelyH 25 and 24

Klickitat County Census Tract 9502 and 9501

EligibleHC 536 and 1,565

ExtremelyH 175 and 413

Of the above HHs, Sawtooth has existing fiber infrastructure that we plan to extend to each HH:

Skamania County:

Unserved: 40

Underserved: 222

Klickitat County:

Unserved: 6

Underserved: 255

Anchor Institutions: Bickleton, Roosevelt, Wishram and Dallesport schools.

Total Unserved: 46

Total Underserved: 477

Total Unserved + Underserved: 523

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Total Anchor Institutions: 4 schools

State and local government and Tribal Government participation is proven to be high in this region. Rights of Way in Skamania and Klickitat Counties are provided through existing franchise agreements.

Total Budget: \$4,447,980 One-Time funding request

Services Offered:

Voice-over-IP:
\$25 with Broadband Internet

Broadband Internet services:
1M/3M: \$35 per month
1M/5M: \$55 per month
1M/10M: \$65 per month

If you have questions regarding this Expression of Interest letter, please contact me at 509-427-4865.

Sincerely,

Brian Adams
Manager
Sawtooth Technologies, LLC